

TROPICAL STORM RUSS (05W)

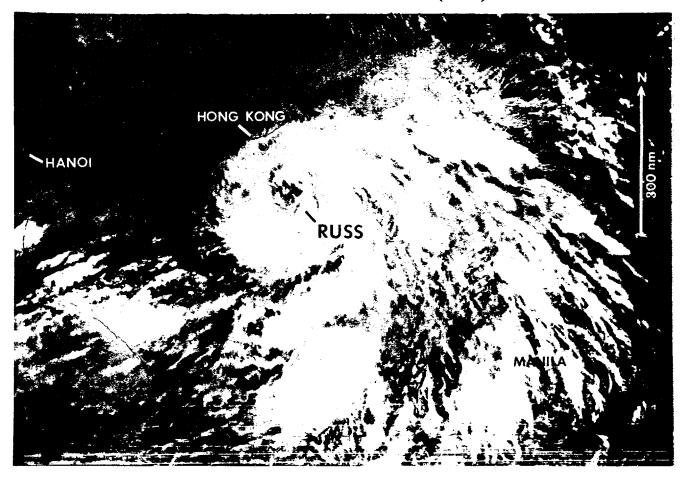


Figure 3-05-1 Russ with a ragged eye nears its peak intensity to the south of Hong Kong (060214Z June infrared DMSP imagery).

On 02 June, as the low-level southwest monsoonal flow over the South China Sea interacted with the well-anchored Mei-yu front (see Appendix A) that extended from south of Japan to near Hong Kong, surface pressures began to fall at the extreme southern end of the front. A tropical disturbance, about 75 nm (140 km) east of Hainan Island, was first mentioned on the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory at 020600Z May. By the evening of 03 June, with deep convection consolidated over the circulation center of this tropical disturbance, a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued at 031900Z. During the following day, the convection remained over the circulation center, and the JTWC issued the first warning on Tropical Depression 05W at 040600Z. The tropical depression slowly tracked in a northeastward direction for two days in association with deep southwesterly monsoonal steering flow. As the southwest monsoon weakened, Russ executed a clockwise loop back toward the west and slowly began to intensify. Russ reached its maximum intensity of 55 kt (28 m/sec) on 06 June as it developed a ragged banding-type eye (Figure 3-05-1). Russ went ashore at 080700Z on the northeastern Luichow Peninsula, and dissipated over southern China. Torrential rains caused severe flooding that killed hundreds of people and destroyed thousands of houses. The combined impacts of Russ and Sharon (06W) are discussed in the Tropical Storm Sharon narrative.